Start of Martha Maier Collection

AR 11112

Sys #: 000199813

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE
Center for Jewish History
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New York, NY 10011

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THE AUSTRIAN HERITAGE COLLECTION AT THE LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

AUSTRIAN-JEWISH IMMIGRANTS IN THE USA

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE: 129 E 73 STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10021, TEL (212) 744 6400

05/24/99

Contents of the Martha Maier-Collection

1. AHC questionnaires I & II (copies)

2. Schreiben des Kaufhauses Brueder Haber aus dem hervorgeht dass Frl. Martha Bickl "[...] von der kommissarischen Leitung dringend gebeten [wird], Frl. Bickl zu irgend welchen Aktionen nicht heranzuziehen." issued Vienna, 03/19/1938 (original)

3. Zeugnis, "dass Herr Oskar Maier bei uns als Verkaeufer, Inkassant und Kundenacquisiteur beschaeftigt war", Kaufhaeuser Brueder Haber, Wien VII., issued 04/30/1938 (copy)

4. Zeugnis, "dass Frauelein Martha Bickel bei uns als Schneidergehilfin beschaeftigt war", Kaufhaeuser Brueder Haber, Wien VII., issued 05/14/1938 (copy)

5. Fristlose Entlassung for Oskar Maier "im Zuge der Arisierung des Betriebes" Kaufhaeuser Brueder Haber, Wien VII., 06/04/1938 (copy)

6. Certificate of marriage between Oskar Maier and Martha Bickel, issued 09/28/1938 (2 pages) (copy)

7. Receipt by the American Express Company concerning $ 766.00 for 2 prepaid U.S.-visas, 02/20/1941 (copy)

8. Letter by the American Consulate General in Vienna to her parents Hermann and Julie Bickel, concerning application for U.S.-visa, 05/29/1941 (copy)

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AUSTRIAN-JEWISH IMMIGRANTS IN THE USA

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE: 129 E 73 STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10021, TEL (212) 744 6400

Name: MARTHA (First Name) _____ (Middle Name) MAIER (Last Name)

Last Occupation: SAMPLEMAKER

Date of Birth: JUNE (Month) 22 (Day) 1917 (Year) **Place of Birth:** VIENNA (City) AUSTRIA (Country)

Address before 1938: 7. BANDGASSE 19 (Street) (District in Vienna) VIENNA (City) AUSTRIA (Country)

Prewar Name: MARTHA MAIER **Maiden Name:** BICKEL

1. Education/Occupation(s) (if possible, indicate institutions and year when entered/left)

PUBLIC SCHOOL TO 1931
GREMIUM (TRADESCHOOL) TO 1933
DRESSMAKER AT BRÜDER HABER FROM 1933 TO 1938
DISMISSED BECAUSE OF RELIGION

2. Were you affiliated with any kind of organization? (Youth, Zionist, Political or any other organizations) If so, did you have any specific function?

NO

3. Were you arrested and/or interned? (please indicate where and when)

NO

4. What was your route of emigration? (please indicate places and dates of stay)

VIENNA TO TRIEST JAN. 1, 1940
ITALIAN LINE "VULCANIA" TO NEW YORK JAN. 17, 1940

5. May we contact you again with a more detailed follow-up questionnaire? **Yes / ~~No~~**

6. Do you have any documents that would be appropriate for the archives of the Leo Baeck Institute? (personal documents, photographs, letters, all kinds of manuscripts, diaries, memoirs, etc.)

Yes / ~~No~~

If necessary please use additional sheets. Thank you!

THE AUSTRIAN HERITAGE COLLECTION AT THE LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

AUSTRIAN-JEWISH IMMIGRANTS IN THE USA

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE: 129 E 73 STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10021, TEL (212) 744 6400

We kindly ask you to answer the following questions in as much detail as possible, either in English or in German. If you need more space, please feel free to use additional sheets. If you don't know the answers to certain questions or don't want to answer for any reason, just go on to the next question.

NAME: MARTHA MAIER
12 LEXINGTON HILL
HARRIMAN, NY 10926

DATE: MAY 5, 1999

1. BEFORE MARCH 1938

1.1 Please describe your parental home.
(Did you live in an apartment or in a house? How many people lived with you? Did you have servants? What language(s) were spoken in the household?)

I LIVED IN AN APARTMENT WITH MY PARENTS - WE SPOKE GERMAN

1.2 Please tell us about your neighborhood (District in Vienna or area).
(What ethnic groups lived there? Religious life? Relationships between Jews and non-Jews? Relationships with neighbors?)

THE APARTMENTHOUSE WAS IN THE 7TH DISTRICT (NEUBAU)
OUR NEIGHBORS WERE OF CATHOLIC AND JEWISH FAITH AND WE HAD GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM.

1.3 What religious tradition existed in your family?
(Did you keep kosher, go to synagogue, observe holidays, etc.?)

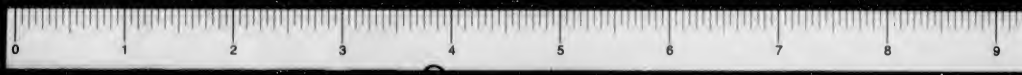
WE OBSERVED THE HOLIDAYS AND WERE MEMBERS OF THE NEUDECKER TEMPEL

1.4 Please, tell us about your friends and acquaintances.
(Were they mostly Jewish or non-Jewish? Did you have any close non-Jewish friends?)

MY FRIENDS WERE MOSTLY JEWISH BUT I HAD GOOD FRIENDS AND RELATIVES (SISTER IN LAW AND COUSINS) WHO WERE NOT JEWISH

1.5 Were you affiliated with any political, social or religious organization?
(Youth Organizations, Zionist Organizations, Political Parties, other organizations)
If so, did you have any specific function?

NO



1.6 **Did you or your family encounter any anti-Semitism before March 1938?**
(If so, please give details.)

NO

1.7 **What was your (or your parents') reaction to Hitler's rise to power in Germany in 1933 and to Nazi activity in Austria in the early thirties? Did you or your parents feel threatened by these events?**

WE DID NOT THINK THAT IT COULD HAPPEN IN AUSTRIA.
MY FATHER (HERMANN BICKEL) HAD SERVED IN THE AUSTRIAN ARMY - HE WAS A CORPORAL FOR 4 YEARS DURING WORLD WAR I

2. FROM MARCH 1938 TO EMIGRATION - FROM EUROPE TO AMERICA

2.1 How was your time spent during and after the "Anschluss"? What was the impact of the "Anschluss" on you personally?
(Were you expelled from school/university? Did you or your parents lose your jobs? Were your apartments/houses looted? Were you (or members of your family) persecuted? Were you forced to scrub the streets?)

I LOST MY JOB AS A DRESSMAKER SHORTLY AFTER THE "ANSCHLUSS" THE FIRM WHERE I WORKED WAS TAKEN OVER BY THE "NEW" GOVERNMENT — WHILE I WAS STILL EMPLOYED, I WAS GIVEN A NOTE TO EXCUSE ME FROM ANY ACTION.

2.2 How did non-Jewish friends, colleagues, schoolmates, neighbors, etc. behave toward you and your family?

MOST OF MY NON-JEWISH COWORKERS PROUDLY WORE THE "SWASTIKA" AND WERE VERY COOL TO ME AND THE OTHER "JEWS" EVEN TO THE FORMER OWNERS OF THE FIRM WHO USED TO TREAT THEM VERY WELL

2.3 **Do you have any recollections of November 9th, 1938, the so-called "Reichs-Kristallnacht"?** (If so, please give details.)

BY NOVEMBER 9TH, MY NEW HUSBAND (OSCAR MAIER) WAS LIVING WITH ME, HE WAS AT HOME WITH MY PARENTS WHEN A GROUP OF NAZI'S IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES CAME TO LOOK FOR "WEAPONS." THEY RANSACKED THE APARTMENT. - THEY MISTAKENLY THOUGHT THAT MY HUSBAND WAS ONE OF THEIR GROUP. EVEN THOUGH YOUNG MEN IN OUR BUILDING WERE ARRESTED, HE REMAINED AT HOME

2.4 **Were you or any members of your family arrested? Sent to a camp?** (If so, please give details.)

MY HUSBANDS BROTHER (SIEGFRIED MAIER) WAS ARRESTED WHILE WALKING NEAR HIS HOME ON JUNE 22, 1938 - HE SPENT 9 MONTHS IN DACHAU AND BUCHENWALDE - HE WAS RELEASED WHEN HIS WIFE GOT JOB'S FOR THEM. THEY WERE ABLE TO GO TO ENGLAND AS A "COUPLE"

2.5 **Can you recall the process of obtaining papers necessary for emigration?** (Did you try to obtain visas for other countries as well? Were you supported by any relief organization, by relatives or friends?)

I WAS ABLE TO GET "AFFIDAVITS OF SUPPORT" FROM RELATIVES IN THE "USA" THEY ALSO VOUCHED FOR MY BROTHER (ERNST BICKEL) AND MY HUSBAND

2.6 What happened to your (or your family's) apartments, houses, businesses and other property?

MY PARENTS HAD TO LEAVE THEIR APARTMENT AND WERE RELOCATED TO SHARE AN APARTMENT WITH OTHER JEWISH FAMILIES WE HAD A SMALL PLOT (SCHREBERGARTEN) IN MEIDLING. THAT WAS TAKEN AWAY IN 1939.

2.7 When did you leave Austria? (Please indicate exact date, if possible)

I LEFT VIENNA ON JANUARY 1, 1940.

2.8 If you did not emigrate directly to the U.S, where did you go first?
(How long did you stay there? Can you give a brief description of your experiences? Why did you leave?)

3. THE UNITED STATES

3.1 When did you arrive in the U.S.? (Please indicate exact date, if possible)

JANUARY 17, 1940

3.2 Did members of your family emigrate to countries other than the U.S.?
(If so, where? Where do they live today? Are you still in contact with them?)

SISTER (ELSA SINGER) ENGLAND

MAYER
- BROTHER'S IN LAW (MAX + SIEGFRIED) ENGLAND
- BROTHER IN LAW (ERNST) CUBA - U.S.A.
- BROTHER IN LAW (FRITZ) ITALY - U.S.A.
- SISTER IN LAW (NELLY) } ENGLAND
- SISTER IN LAW (MARTA) }
- SISTER IN LAW (MIMI BACHRACH (CUBA - U.S.A.)

ALL HAVE DIED

3.3 Did you serve in the U.S. Armed Forces or in any other allied army?
(If so, when did you join? What division? What was your area of operation? When were you discharged?)

NO

3.4 Please list places and dates of residence in the U.S.
(City, State; in bigger cities, neighborhood)

NEW YORK CITY (1940 TO 1959)
BROOKLYN, N.Y 'TO 1973)
ROCKLAND COUNTY, N.Y (TO 1986.)
ORANGE COUNTY, N.Y.

3.5 Please describe your occupational situation from your arrival in the U.S. to the present.

I WORKED FROM JAN. 1940 TO NOVEMBER 1944
AS AN OPERATOR IN N.Y.S GARMENT CENTER
STAYED AT HOME WITH MY 2 CHILDREN
I WORKED AS A SAMPLEMAKER FROM 1954
UNTIL I RETIRED IN 1979

3.6 Did you belong to any emigrant/immigrant-related organization or cultural association? (e.g. Austrian American Federation, Austrian Forum, etc.? If so, since when? Do you still belong to any of them?)

NO

3.7 Do you still speak German? If so, with whom and when? How often?

NOT TOO MUCH,

3.8 Would you call yourself religious? To what degree? What is your affiliation? Has it changed?
(Do you keep kosher, go to synagogue, observe the holidays,...?)

YES - I AM A MEMBER OF TEMPLE BETH EL
MONROE, NY
WE OBSERVE THE HOLIDAYS AS A FAMILY

3.9 Are your friends and acquaintances mostly German-speaking or non-German-speaking? Mainly Jewish or not?

MOSTLY ENGLISH-SPEAKING
SOME JEWISH FRIENDS, BUT MANY OTHERS

3.10 Of what country (countries) are you a citizen? When was each citizenship granted?

U.S.A. 1945

3.11 Have you ever visited Austria since the war? If so, how often?
(What did you do there? Can you recall some of your impressions during these visits? Have you ever thought of going back permanently?)

I VISITED VIENNA FOR THE FIRST AND ONLY TIME IN JULY 1997.
MY HUSBAND WAS INVITED BY THE JEWISH WELCOME SERVICE AND I WAS ABLE TO TRAVEL WITH HIM.
IT WAS A VERY SENTIMENTAL TRIP FOR US.
THE AUSTRIAN PEOPLE TREATED US VERY WELL,
BUT I WOULD NOT WANT TO LEAVE THE U.S.A.

4. PARTICIPATION IN OTHER ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS

4.1 Have you ever been interviewed by any other organization?
(Please indicate when and by which organization?)

NO

4.2 Have you ever been mentioned in any historical works?
(Holocaust-related literature, Documentary films, Exhibitions etc.)

NO

5. FAMILY MEMBERS

5.1 Spouse (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth (if deceased, place/date of death), Occupation(s))

OSCAR MAIER
BORN VIENNA, AUSTRIA DECEMBER 30, 1907
DIED NANUET, N.Y. DECEMBER 14, 1998
DIAMOND DIEMAKER

5.2 Mother (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth (if deceased, place/date of death), Occupation(s))

JULIE BICKEL NEE ARMEL
POLAND OCTOBER 11, 1881
DIED IN CONCENTRATION CAMP 1940?

5.3 Father (Name, Place/date of birth (if deceased, place/date of death, Occupation(s))

HERMANN BICKEL
POLAND MARCH 9, 1875
DIED IN CONCENTRATIONCAMP 1940?

5.4 Siblings (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth (if deceased, place/date of death), Occupation(s))

BROTHER - ERNEST BICKEL
BORN VIENNA - AUSTRIA MAY 18TH 1904
DIED NEW YORK CITY NOVEMBER 22, 1971

SISTER - ELSA LEVINE NEE BICKEL
BORN VIENNA, AUSTRIA MARCH 27TH 1907
DIED SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA JANUARY 30TH 1982

5.5 **Children** (Name, Maiden Name, Address (City, State, Country), Place/date of birth (if deceased, place/date of death), Occupation(s))

SON STEVEN MAIER - MONROE, NY
BORN NEW YORK CITY JANUARY 8TH, 1945

DAUGHTER JUDITH BLACKMAN NEE MAIER
BORN NEW YORK CITY JUNE 8TH 1948

5.6 **Grandparents** (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth (if deceased, place/date of death), Occupation(s))

The Austrian Heritage Collection is always looking for people to interview.

If you know any Austrian-Jewish immigrants in the US who might be interested in participating in this project, please either ask them to contact us or write their addresses below.

Thank you very much for participating in this project.

P.M. H ö n i g ist Regierungs-
kommissar im Hause Haber und führt alle Ge-
schäfte im Interesse des Staates und der Beleg-
schaft.-

Frl. Martha B i c k l

ist dort angestellt und wird von der kommissarischen
Leitung dringend gebeten, Frl. Bickl
zu irgend welchen Aktionen nicht heranzuziehen.-

H e i l H i t l e r !

Wien, 19/3.1938

U 31-5-71
Lappe 5

BE[illegible]BER
WIEN VII.
Neubaugasse Nr. 25.

Kaufhäuser

BRÜDER HABER

WIEN VII.

Haus für Bekleidung
Neubaugasse 25
Telefon: B 33305, B 33445

Haus für Wohnkultu
Mariahilferstr. 9(
Telefon: B 30532, B 3013

K/1334

WIEN, am 30. April 1938.

Zeugnis.

Wir bestätigen hiemit, dass Herr Oskar Maier in der Zeit vom 15.Oktober 1928 bis zum heutigen Tage als Verkäufer, Inkassant und Kundenacquisiteur tätig war.-

Herr Maier hat sich in allen drei Eigenschaften durch den guten Umgangston mit unseren Kunden, sowie durch seinen Fleiss, Redegewandtheit und Arbeitsfreudigkeit unsere grösste Zufriedenheit erworben.- In seiner Eigenschaft als Inkassant hatte Herr Maier stets grössere Geldbeträge zu kassieren und war die Verrechnung derselben stets eine einwandfreie und klaglose; als Kundenacquisiteur hatte Genannter sehr schöne Erfolge zu verzeichnen, so dass wir denselben jedermann bestens empfehlen können.-

Wir sehen uns genötigt, Herrn Maier infolge seiner jüdischen Konfession am heutigen Tage die Kündigung auszusprechen.

Verwalter auf Grund des Gesetzes über Bestellung von kommissarischen Verwaltern und kommissarischen Überwachungspersonen, G. Bl. Nr. 80/1938.

BRÜDER HABER
WIEN VII.
Neubaugasse Nr. 25.

Kaufhäuser

BRÜDER HABER

WIEN VII.

Haus für Bekleidung
Neubaugasse 25
Telefon: B 33305, B 33445

Haus für Wohnkultur
Mariahilferstr. 90
Telefon: B 30532, B 30137

WIEN, am 14. Mai 1938.

ZEUGNIS

Wir bestätigen hiemit, dass Fräulein Martha B i c k e l bei uns in der Zeit vom 4. Oktober 1933 bis zum heutigen Tage als Schneidergehilfin beschäftigt war.-

Frl. Bickel hat selbstständig die vorzunehmenden Arbeiten, sowohl in Herren - als auch Damenkonfektion stets exakt und äussert flink ausgefährt und hat sich während ihrer Tätigkeit bei uns die grösste Zufriedenheit erworben, so dass wir sie jedermann auf das Beste empfehlen können.-

Wir sehen uns genötigt, Frl. Bickel infolge ihrer jüdischen Konfession am heutigen Tage die Kündigung auszusprechen.

BRÜDER HABER
WIEN VII.
Neubaugasse Nr. 25

Verwalter auf Grund des Gesetzes über die Bestellung von kommissarischen Verwaltern und kommissarischen Überwachungspersonen, G. Bl. Nr. 80/1938.

Kaufhäuser

BRÜDER HABER

WIEN VII.

Haus für Bekleidung
Neubaugasse 25
Telefon: B 33305, B 33445

Haus für Wohnkultur
Mariahilferstr. 90
Telefon: B 30532, B 30137

WIEN, am 4. Juni 8. 193...

Herrn

Oskar M a i e r,

Wien 2.,

Die kommissarische Verwaltung der Firma Brüder H a b e r hat im Zuge der Arisierung des Betriebes die fristlose Entlassung mit dem heutigen Tage über Sie ausgesprochen.-

BRÜDER HABER
WIEN VII.
Neubaugasse Nr. 25
Verwalter auf Grund des Gesetzes über die Bestellung von kommissarischen Verwaltern und kommissarischen Überwachungspersonen
G. Bl. Nr. 80/1938

Eingeschrieben

Nr. 202

Gültig zum Zwecke der kirchlichen oder weltanschaulichen Trauung

Bescheinigung der Eheschließung

Zwischen dem Handelsangestellten Oskar Maier

wohnhaft in Wien, II., Untere Augartenstraße 26

und der Schneidergehilfin Martha Bickel

wohnhaft in Wien, VII., Bandgasse 19

ist vor dem unterzeichneten Standesbeamten heute die Ehe geschlossen worden.

Wien, den 28. Sept. 1938.

Der Standesbeamte

(Siegel)

Vordr. B. 132. Bescheinigung der Eheschließung.
Verlag für Standesamtswesen G. m. b. H. Berlin SW 61, Gitschiner Straße 109.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Wien, [illegible] 1939

[illegible]

Bezirkshauptmannschaft [illegible]

Wien

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY

February 20th 1941

RECEIVED FROM Mrs. Martha Maier 268 W 91st St.

the sum of Seven Hundred sixty-six 100 Dollars, $ 766.—

for account of 2 prepaid tickets Milwaukee via Erie. Receipt to follow

660-3-39 Printed in U. S. A.

[illegible]

Herrn/Frau/Fraeulein [illegible]

Bezugnehmend [illegible] einen [illegible] derungsvisums fuer [illegible] teilt, dass das Gen[illegible] Ihr formelles [illegible] auch zu ueberpruef[illegible] ausgefordert, an einem Wochenta[illegible] um 9 Uhr morgens be[illegible] Untersuchung und persoenlichen Pruef[illegible] damit [illegible] Berechtigung zum Empfange [illegible] festgestellt werden kann.

Weiters werden Sie [illegible] gemacht, dass ein sehr verspaetetes Ers[illegible] kann, dass Sie neu ausgestellte oder ergaen[illegible] vorweisen muessen, die eventuellen Aenderungen de[illegible] Rechnung tragen.

Personen, die berechti[illegible] gefunden wurden, ein Visum zu erhalten, muessen auf das Vi[illegible] trollstelle ihres Geburts[illegible] ist. Sie werden darauf auf[illegible] macht, dass bei der Ausgabe des Visums Verzoegerungen [illegible] koennen.

Bei Ihrer persoenlich[illegible] muessen Sie unbedingt die folgenden Dokumente vor[illegible] Siehe Liste. Sie werden darauf aufmerksa[illegible] dass Ihr formelles Visumansuchen, bei Nachweis der [illegible] Dokumente, entgegengenommen werden kann, dass [illegible] Visum aber erst dann erhalten koennen, bis Sie nachweisen [illegible] die Reise in die Vereinigten Staaten durchfuehren ko[illegible] und dem Generalkonsulat die Bestaetigung der Schiffahrt[illegible] ueber den belegten Schiffsplatz mit Angabe de[illegible] und Abfahrtsdatums des Schiffes vorweisen.

Fuer das am 7. November abgehend[illegible] Schiff kann Ihnen ein Visum [illegible] vor Anfang September erteilt [illegible] Generalkonsul

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL VIENNA

End of Martha Maier Collection